

## Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCEM-02 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 XMB-07 NEA-10 AID-20

IGA-02 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 192254Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5698

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4334

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, HO

SUBJ: PETROLEUM: GOH THINKING ABOUT PROBLEM

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4320

1. BENJAMIN VILLANUEVA, ECONOMIC POLICY ADVISOR, UPON RETURN FROM VENEZUELA MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. THEY INDICATE STATE OF THINKING IN GOH ON PETROLEUM PROBLEM.

2. THE GOH, ACCORDING TO VILLANUEVA, IS DEVELOPING AN EMERGENCY PLAN TO MEET THE NECESSITIES OF THE ECONOMY WITH THE LEAST DISTORTION.

3. THE GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETING ITS ANALYSIS OF A NEW SYSTEM OF PRICES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. FOR BOTH STUDIES THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS LOANING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. VILLANUEVA STATED THE UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY TEXACO IN RATIONING PRODUCT HAVE MADE MORE DIFFICULT THE DEALING

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WITH THE COMPANY. "WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE

TALKING ON THE BASIS OF HARMONY AND UNDERSTANDING THAT SHOULD PREVAIL IN ORDER TO SOLVE SUCH URGENT PROBLEMS." VILLANUEVA STATED THE GOH IS AWARE OF WORLD PETROLEUM PROBLEMS BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY HAD DECIDED UPON THE BASIS FOR THIS RATIONING RATHER THAN HAVING IT PRESENTED AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

5. VILLANUEVA ATTENDED AS OBSERVER AT THE RECENT ARPEL MEETINGS.

6. COMMENT: GOH OFFICIALS ARE NOT ANTICIPATING A QUICK RESOLUTION OF WORLD PETROLEUM SUPPLY. FURTHER, THEY ANTICIPATE CRUDE PRICES WILL REMAIN AT HIGH LEVEL EVEN SHOULD SUPPLY PROBLEMS RECEDE.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:**  
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